Application No. 09 914,532 Reply to Office Action of May 19, 2003

## **REMARKS**

The rejection of claims over prior art is respectfully traversed, as discussed in the Appeal Brief **submitted herewith**.

The rejection of Claims 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed. Regarding lack of antecedent basis for the term "the reacted mixture", the term has been replaced with --the reaction mixture--, which has antecedent basis in Claim 1. The term "the feed mixture" no longer appears in Claim 7, as that term has been replaced with --a feed mixture--. Finally, the term "the reaction" in Claim 9 now reads --the reaction mixture--. For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully submit that all the presently pending claims in this application are now in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER/AND NEUSTADT, P.C.

Norman F. Oblon

Registration No. 24.618

Attorney of Record

Harris A. Pitlick

Registration No. 38,779

22850

(703) 413-3000 (703) 413-2220 (fax)

NFO:HAP bwt